

Mark Baldwin
MA MSc PhD

Biographical Note

After graduating from Cambridge University in Mechanical Sciences (with Honours), Mark Baldwin worked for a consulting civil engineering firm on a variety of projects, including London's Victoria Line, and Newcastle's Central Motorway East. On achieving chartered status, he enrolled as a postgraduate student at Imperial College, London, and obtained a Master's Degree in Soil Mechanics (with Distinction).

He then accepted the offer of a lectureship at Imperial, and spent 15 years on the Civil Engineering Department staff, with particular responsibility for the undergraduate course 'Engineering & the Environment'. During this time, he was awarded a doctorate for his thesis on modern commercial inland waterways.

In 1986, he and his family moved to Shropshire to develop the book-selling and publishing business which he had established with his wife as a part-time venture in 1978. Cleobury Mortimer has proved a congenial base for the business, although much is done by post.

The Baldwins' bookshop in Cleobury is largely second-hand, and holds a general stock. However, their specialities include Transport & Industrial History, and WW2 Intelligence & Codebreaking.

Small publishers can only hope to market effectively in subject areas they know, so the publishing side of the business concentrates on three main themes - Local History, Canals, and WW2 Codebreaking. More than forty books, booklets and maps have been published to date, and Dr Baldwin has lectured widely on various aspects of these three themes. His lectures on the story of the Enigma machine and Bletchley Park have been warmly received at venues from Wigtown (Scotland) and Alnwick to Birmingham, Ipswich, Folkestone, Falmouth, Belfast, and the Channel Islands, by a variety of audiences including professional, commercial, and educational, as well as the general public in theatres and festivals. A Polish lecture tour in 2004 was particularly well received, as no other Englishman has ever toured Poland with an Enigma machine, and in 2005 he spoke in Germany itself. In 2006 he mounted an Enigma display for the Imperial War Museum travelling exhibition in Shrewsbury, and gave a series of lectures aboard a cruise liner. This year he delivered a series on 'The Secret War' on a cruise liner, and has been asked by the RAF to front an Enigma exhibit at Cosford's Air Show, and has also been booked to speak at venues from Pitlochry to Yeovil.

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